

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER
U. S. WEATHER BUREAU
Dec. 27, 1917—Low Temp.
Four hours' Rainfall 0.75.
Temp. Min. 66, Max. 77.
Weather cloudy.

Hawaiian Gazette

LATEST CABLED SUGAR QUOTATIONS	
Cents	Dollars
1st Centrifugal B. Y. per lb. per ton	5.00 \$150.00
Price, Hawaiian bids...	5.00 \$150.00
Lowest previous quote	5.00 \$150.00
Mon.	5.02 \$153.40

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HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1917. —SEMI-WEEKLY.

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PEACE CHATTER ONLY ANOTHER HUN TRICK IS OFFICIAL VIEW

Berlin's Effort To Gain Time In Which To Move More Troops To West Is Motive Back of Negotiations With Bolsheviks

BULGARIA FLATLY OUT AGAINST PROPOSALS

Washington Believes Russia's Request For a Ten-Day Delay Is Trick Being Worked By Huns Through Cat's Paw

WASHINGTON, December 28.—(Associated Press)—That the alleged peace terms of the Central Powers, as outlined in brief by Count Czernin, the Austrian foreign minister, at Brest-Litovsk, and as reported in current rumor, are insincere and cannot be regarded as serious is the opinion of the officials here, including the President.

The conditions that surround the latest peace talk of the Kaiser are such that they stamp the terms being offered through the Russian peace conference as lacking in all vitality. The peace talk, in the opinion of the diplomats and officials here, is simply an attempt to gain time.

RUSSIA ASKS TIME

Just what these peace terms actually are will soon be known officially as the Russian government has requested a delay of ten days in the negotiations being carried on by the Lenin-Trotsky factions with the Teutons in order that the German suggestions may be laid by Russia before her allies. That the Austro-German suggestions presume to include a general peace is known.

Despatches from Vienna by way of Amsterdam reports one of the Viennese papers as quoting Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria as opposed to the peace program outlined by Count Czernin. The Bulgarian ruler announces bluntly that Bulgaria proposes to retain what she has won in the war and does not propose to restore the borders of Serbia, Montenegro and Rumania. The program of peace without annexations and without indemnities is not the Bulgarian program, he asserts.

ONLY HUN TRICK

At Washington it is believed that the Russian request for delay is only a German trick being played unconsciously by the Petrograd visionaries and that all Germany wants is to gain time. By dragging out the peace negotiations, the German officials may be able to deceive the German people into believing that there is a sincere desire at Berlin for a cessation of the war, while the real object of Germany is to have the opportunity to strengthen her western lines for the winter.

Whatever may be the object back of the peace talk and the program laid down by Count Czernin, the attitude of the Washington administration is unchanged from that announced some time ago by the President in his reply to the Pope.

PEOPLE MUST SPEAK

This stand was repeated in the name of the President yesterday by a number of officials close to him. They state that Germany cannot today or at any time se-

HE WILL NOT LISTEN TO ANY GERMAN PEACE TERMS NOW—The President has made it plain that he regards the alleged peace terms of the Central Powers as insincere and has taken advantage of the peace rumors to reaffirm the determination of the United States not to take up negotiations with any government that does not speak with the announced authority of the people it purports to represent.



BOLSHEVIKI FORCE BEATEN BY CHINESE

Disorders in Harbin Come To Climax and Bloody Battle Is Result of Friction

TOKIO, December 28.—(Associated Press)—Chinese troops have clashed with the Russian Maximilians in garrison at Harbin, Manchuria, and in a bloody battle the soldiers of the Bolshevik government were defeated and forced to surrender.

Harbin has been in a state of disorder for several weeks, the Russian soldiers deserting all discipline and permitting banditry to flourish in the very city itself. A number of Chinese and Japanese stores were looted and Chinese and Japanese residents were killed.

To preserve order and to reassert Chinese sovereignty over the Manchurian district, the Chinese despatched a force of soldiers, which moved in and occupied quarters last week. On Wednesday the Chinese and Russians clashed and a street battle developed. The Chinese drove the Russians back into their barracks and besieged the place, the Russians finally surrendering.

SHELL EXPLODES IN AMERICAN TRENCHES

Corporal Is Killed and Private Wounded Christmas Eve

AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, December 28.—(Associated Press)—One American was killed and one wounded in the American sector of trenches on Christmas Eve when a Hun shell was thrown into the trench which they and others occupied. These two were the only serious casualties.

Official reports issued yesterday said that a corporal was killed and a private soldier was seriously wounded.

Cavalrymen Deal Swift Justice Out To Bandit Band

Troopers Avenge Murder of American Stage Driver—Wipe Out Outlaws in Fierce Little Battle Below the Border

MARFA, Texas, December 28.—(Associated Press)—United States cavalry, which crossed the Mexican line on Christmas Day in pursuit of a band of outlaws who had raided into Texas and murdered a stage driver, returned to the border yesterday, having carried out their work and wiped out the band.

The cavalry overtook the raiders some distance to the south of the international line and immediately engaged them. Eighteen of the Mexicans were killed and a number were wounded, only a few members of the band escaping unscathed.

In the fighting five American soldiers were wounded, but none fatally. All the wounded were brought back and all will recover.

GERMAN LECTURER HAS STORMY REAPPEARANCE

AMSTERDAM, December 19.—(Associated Press)—Professor Friedrich Forster of the University of Munich, whose articles in Swiss newspapers some two years ago caused rage and impotence because they arraigned Germany so bitterly and yet did not cost him his undergraduate popularity as the more "patriotic element" would have liked, is back at his old post at the university again.

His return, late this fall, was sanctioned by the German authorities in face of the protests of fellow faculty members who almost unanimously had disapproved of his utterances and writings in Switzerland, and was permitted chiefly because Professor Forster had achieved a personal popularity with the students of the university that it seemed unwise to ignore. Resumption of his lecture course was conditioned upon his willingness to avoid political topics.

MIKADO PLEDGES CLOSE COOPERATION

In Speech From Throne Japanese Ruler Says Japan Must Do Its Utmost

TOKIO, December 28.—(Associated Press)—The cooperation of Japan with the allies of the Entente to the fullest possible extent, was pledged by the Mikado yesterday in his speech from the throne, which opened the regular session of the diet.

"The European war is becoming daily more important for the world and for Japan," he said, "and it becomes us to devote all our efforts towards more effective cooperation with our allies."

He declared that the relations now existing between Japan and the other Powers of the Entente are extremely close, a fact which is greatly pleasing to him.

Following the Emperor's address, the diet adjourned until January 29.

BELGIANS FORCED TO WORK FOR CAPTORS

PARIS, December 19.—(Associated Press)—No desire on the part of the German invaders to lessen the severity with which the unfortunate inhabitants of Belgium are treated is shown in the news from the occupied territory received here by Belgian officials. For example, some 600 men who had been deported from Louvain, Belgium, to Germany, almost all stone quarry workers, were brought to the Baschamps camp, near Maubouge. They were counting on being repatriated to their homes but were taken to the camp instead.

There they were promised permission to go home if they would sign a contract to work, the contract stating that they were signed voluntarily. About thirty, worn out by their sufferings and moved by the thought of seeing home again after months of exile, signed the contract and the others were at once formed in columns of a hundred or a hundred and fifty, and were marched towards the front to work on the trenches.

CROP VALUES SHOW GAIN OVER ANY PAST SEASONS

NORTH YAKIMA, Washington, December 19.—(Associated Press)—The value of crops of the Yakima valley for 1917 is found by the local commercial club to be \$26,572,370, which is \$10,000,000 more than last year.

The fruit crop, comprising 14,000 car loads, shows a gain of 40 percent over last year, and it is valued at \$9,153,200. A total of 20,000 acres never sown before was planted during the past season to grain crops.

STATISTICS PROVE HOOVER IS CORRECT

In Month of October Sugar Shipments Ten Million Pounds More Than Previous Year

WASHINGTON, December 28.—(Associated Press)—Exports of sugar from the United States during the month of October showed an increase of 10,000,000 pounds over the same month a year ago. These export figures can be used to contradict the assertions that sugar exports were only normal and to back the assertions made by Hoover that a large part of the supply that was ordinarily ready for the home market had to go to the Allies and was so used. The greater part of these shipments, export reports show, went to England and to France.

Chas. Sprague, before the senate committee investigating the sugar shortage sought to convey the belief that there was no actual shortage of sugar but was created through a stoppage of purchases from Cuba. President Babst of the American Sugar Refining Company also held that supplies might have been obtained and sought to contradict the figures which Hoover had presented in the statement which he issued to the press.

But out the middle man is the proposal of the American Sugar Refining Company, it was learned from New York yesterday. The company plans with the first of the year to eliminate all brokers' sales, thus eliminating the "middleman's profit." The announcement of the plan was made yesterday.

It is the intention of the company to form its own selling organizations and distribute through them.

GUATEMALA HAS ANOTHER SHAKE

Seismic Disturbance Embraces the Whole Republic But Loss of Life Is Small

WASHINGTON, December 28.—(Associated Press)—The Republic of Guatemala was visited by a series of earthquakes again on Wednesday, according to the reports received here through the state department yesterday. The seismic disturbances were widespread throughout the country and a large amount of property damage has been done.

The loss of life was small, due to the experience of the Guatemalan population in building to resist the earth shocks. Although Guatemala City was severely shaken and property damage was extensive there, only ten people were killed and forty injured.

VENEZUELAN POLICY TO BE PRO-AMERICAN

Diplomat Adds It Will Also Be Pro-Ally and Anti-Hun

LONDON, December 28.—(Associated Press)—Venezuelans generally are pro-American and are largely, co-Ally, Pedro Domecni, Venezuelan diplomat as asserted in a statement which he made last night. His government's policy he said follows these same lines. As to the policy Venezuela will leave no doubt of it in the minds of the warriors for democracy while in support of his assertion of the sympathy of the people he pointed to the fact that there are now many Venezuelans who are fighting with the French in their armies while none can be found fighting with the Germans.

HOUSEHOLDERS PLAN TO LEASE COAL MINE

SPOKANE, Washington, December 19.—(Associated Press)—As a partial solution of the high cost of living, an organization in this city known as the Associated Benevolent, fraternal, church and labor organizations has taken steps to lease a coal mine near Missoula, Montana, to provide fuel for this winter. Plans also have been made to obtain a 600 acre tract of burned over land in this state, where it is estimated 6000 cords of dead wood are standing.

The organization has been buying foodstuffs and fuel in wholesale quantities and distributing them to its members for some time, and it is planned now to secure a warehouse in the city to handle flour and feed by the car load.

PARLIAMENT CONVENES

TOKIO, December 27.—(Special to Nippon Jiji)—The Japanese parliament convened today. All parties met early this morning to complete the organization.

Air Battle Is Victory For Allies

Eleven Enemy Craft Downed—Munition Train And Town Wrecked

NEW YORK, December 28.—(Associated Press)—Aircraft of the Allies sent disaster to the Huns in Italy and in Belgium yesterday. The former incident was a battle in the sky while the latter was a successful bombing episode.

Eleven Austro-German aircraft were wrecked and sent crashing to the earth by British airmen yesterday back of the Italian front. This air battle resulted from an attempted raid and effort to bomb Treviso, sixteen miles north of Venice. The British met the invading aircraft and turned the attempt into a disastrous failure for the Teutons. The few remaining craft of the Teuton airfleet fled precipitately when the British opened their attack.

In contrast with this unsuccessful attempt of the Huns was the success which was achieved by a British aircraft. This aviator wrecked a munition train and the explosion laid waste a town killing many Germans and a few Belgian non-combatants which was unavoidable.

The British aviator, flying within the German lines, dropped a bomb upon the munition train. A deafening and air rending explosion followed which laid waste the town of Ronselaar.

SWITZERLAND HAS ITS LABOR UNREST

Socialistic and Workingmen's Agitation and Fuel Economy Do Not Get Together

ZURICH, Switzerland, December 28.—(Associated Press)—Confronted on the one hand by the growing socialistic and workingmen's agitation, and on the other by the necessity of economizing not only with heating but also lighting and power materials, the federal council has inaugurated the ten-hour day for all factories and workshops. It is regarded highly improbable that the measure will satisfy the working element, which in Switzerland constitutes the Socialist party.

The new measure has been drawn up with an eye to saving electricity. Power companies may furnish current to industries—if the latter are operating in the interest and for the welfare of Switzerland, while industries engaged in producing war materials for either one of the belligerent powers are sharply restricted.

The step of the federal council affects the whole Swiss labor problem vitally. Economically, Switzerland has vastly changed since the war began. The forces that in peace time were employed in agriculture or the operation of the hotels and kindred features of the foreign tourist business, now have flocked into the ammunition industry.

Prices have gone up enormously, probably more than industrial wages. The regular, habitual industrial worker has been stirred to discontent by the growing socialist agitation in Switzerland—an agitation that manifested itself in unprecedentedly bitter political methods at the national elections just past and that may mean an increase in the Socialist representation in the next parliament.

MONTANA STOCK GROWERS SELL OFF THEIR CATTLE

BUTTE, Montana, December 28.—(Associated Press)—Because of a lack of feed and water, Montana stockgrowers are disposing of a large part of their livestock. Charles Long stock superintendent for a transcontinental railroad, declared here recently.

Fully 60 percent more livestock has been shipped from Montana to eastern markets this season than a year ago, he said, and there will be a big demand for animals to replenish the herds in the spring.

UNCLE SAM WILL BE RAILROADER AT NOON TODAY —ORDERS READY

Director - General McAdoo Squares Around For His Newest and Biggest Task - First General Order Awaits His Signature

QUICK FREIGHTS THE FIRST CONSIDERATION

Railroad Brotherhood Chiefs Confer With the President and Renew Pledges of Loyalty of Railroad Employees

WASHINGTON, December 28.—(Associated Press)—Order No. 1, Government Railroad Service, is prepared and will be signed by Director-General McAdoo today at twelve o'clock. The signing of this order will mark the most momentous change brought by the war to date to the United States as it will inaugurate the government control and administration of every railroad line in the continental United States doing a general transportation business.

Order No. 1 will wipe out all competitive conditions and will provide for a complete pooling of all railroad traffic equipment and trackage facilities of the railroads. It will announce the retention for the present of all present officers and employees of the various lines and will urge these new government employees to maintain their present high standards in order that the war work of the country may proceed and be speeded up.

SPEED FIRST OBJECT

The immediate result of the elimination of competition will be in the rerouting of all traffic over the shortest lines, regardless of the points of origin. Everything will be subordinated to handling all traffic, freight and passengers, in the most expeditious and economical way for the common good of the nation. Speedy movement of freights will be the first consideration and the aim of the director general and his assistants of the Railway War Board.

Yesterday the heads of the railroad brotherhoods were called into consultation by the President and went over with him the various phases of the labor situation as it affected the transportation lines. The brotherhood presidents, at this White House conference, renewed their pledges of loyalty to the government and pledged as well the faith and loyalty of the organizations they represented.

SOME FOOD HOARDING CONSIDERED AS PROPER

BOISE, Idaho, December 19.—(Associated Press)—Some kinds of food hoarding are all right, according to H. E. Rickard, federal food commissioner for Idaho, and H. W. Hochbaum, state leader of county farm agents. They have started a movement to introduce the people of this state to buy and store apples and potatoes against the winter's needs.

Lack of transportation facilities has left quantities of apples and potatoes in the hands of growers. The campaign will be carried on by the 16 field men of the University of Idaho extension department.

LEAVES FOR KOREA

TOKIO, December 27.—(Special to Nippon Jiji)—Prince Li left for his home in Korea today.

TRAINS BLOCKADED

TOKIO, December 27.—(Special to Nippon Jiji)—A heavy snowfall was reported yesterday at Hakui. A number of trains were delayed.